

INTERNATIONAL

A YEAR AFTER MYANMAR COUP

Growing surveillance threatens lives

Suu Kyi to go on trial for election fraud on Feb 14; US issues sanctions

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION

A group of young men were recently stopped at a security checkpoint in Yangon and asked to hand over their mobile phones. After being questioned about social media apps on their phones, one was fined for using a virtual private network (VPN).

The crackdown on VPNs, which anonymise a user's Internet Protocol address and help bypass firewalls, is the latest attack on digital rights in Myanmar - alongside internet shutdowns and growing surveillance - since a military coup on February 1, 2021.

Authorities say the surveillance measures are part of a drive to improve governance and curb crime.

Fearful of being tracked, citizens have turned off the location setting on their phones, and used encrypted messaging apps, VPNs and foreign SIM cards to communicate and organise protests, and document human rights abuses in the country.

"Even before the coup, there was an assumption that there was surveillance - it has just gotten much more heavy-handed and overt since February 1," said Debbie Stothard, founder of the Alternative Asean Network on Burma, an advocacy group.

Meanwhile, the United States yesterday imposed sanctions on seven individuals and two entities connected to Myanmar, the US Treasury said on its website.

A court will start an election fraud trial of Myanmar's deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi on February 14, a source familiar with the proceedings said yesterday, after she was accused of influencing the 2020 vote to win a second term in office.

Suu Kyi faces trial in more than a dozen cases and so far has been sentenced to a combined six years in detention by a court in the capital Naypyitaw.



Service members of a mechanised brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces drive Armored personnel carrier (APC) during military exercises outside Kharkiv, Ukraine yesterday. The Russian and US foreign ministers are set to hold fresh talks today after a UN Security Council meeting on Ukraine crisis.

PHOTO: AFP

The first, at long last

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"shootouts" or "gunfights", which led to deaths of people over the years, were staged too?

In 2020, the year Sinha died, 195 people were killed in "shootouts" across the country, including 76 in Teknaf and other upazilas of Cox's Bazar, according to data of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK). Police were involved in 33 out of the 76 incidents.

After Sinha's death, Teknaf police had filed a case stating it a "shootout".

Interestingly, Sinha's was the last death at the hands of police in 2020. Following his death, only three "shootouts" took place in Cox's Bazar that year, and either the Border Guard Bangladesh or Rab-15 was involved in those.

The following year, Teknaf and other upazilas of the district saw 24 deaths in "gunfights", but police were involved in only one of those, ASK says.

The dip in the number of "shootouts" involving police is quite surprising.

Pradeep Kumar Das joined Teknaf Police Station as OC in October 2018. At least 87 people were killed in 48 "gunfights" involving Teknaf police between August 1, 2018 and August 1, 2020.

The descriptions for all these incidents are almost identical to the one provided by Teknaf police in the case of Sinha. The first one is - "Criminals" would be meeting at a spot, law enforcers would reach there, and they would come under attack from "criminals". A "shootout" would ensue and one or more of the alleged criminals would be killed.

The other description is - an alleged criminal would be arrested, law enforcers would take him to a spot to recover drugs or arms, the "criminals" gang members would be lying in wait, a "shootout" would follow, and only the person leading the law enforcers to the spot would be killed.

Nur Khan Liton, secretary general of Ain o Salish Kendra, said: "A case is hardly ever filed by any shootout victims' family against law enforcers. Police do not want to record such cases. Even when they do, they hastily file the final report with the court, saying they found nothing."

A number of cases were filed by victims' families against Teknaf police following the death of Sinha.

Yesterday, Sinha's family expressed joy after the verdict and said if people work with dedication, the rule of law is established.

But this seems to be not true for all cases.

A case involving a "shootout" went on trial, but it was dismissed by a court due to a lack of witnesses willing to testify.

This was the case of 32-year-old Abdul Alim who was killed in a "shootout" between police and "a gang of robbers" at 1:00am on May 4, 2010.

The FIR of the case states that Alim was accused in three murder and three arms cases.

However, Alim's wife Anju Begum claimed that her husband was picked up on May 3 evening.

"He asked me to make an omelette for him, and said he was going out for a minute. I fried the egg and was sitting to offer prayers. At that moment, his sister came and told me that people saw my husband being picked up by cops," Anju testified.

On July 20, 2010, Anju lodged the case with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court in Kushtia against cops, including OC Mehedi Hasan.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) had published a report stating that an independent inquiry should be conducted.

ASK, which was providing legal counsel to the family, said the lower court ruled in the favour of the cops and dismissed the case.

Former NHRC chairman Mizanur Rahman Khan said, "A former member [Sinha] of a disciplined force was killed in the incident. Had we seen the same impact of justice in other cases, the culture of impunity would have stopped."

Dhaka South City Corporation
Office of the Executive Engineer
Waste Management Department
Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka
www.dhakasouthcity.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.207.000.12.05.2596.2022

Corrigendum Notice

This is to inform all concerned that tender notice Memo No. 46.207.000.12.05.2581.2021, Date: 20/01/2021 the following corrigendum is as follows:

Sl. No.	Package No.	Identification of lot	Existing date & time	Amendment date & time
1.	epg/dscc/mwm/d/21-22/4/P04	Tender ID No. 647953 Cleaning work of Uttar Kutubkhal, Khal, Mridha Bari Khal & Matuail Kabarsthan Khal (Package-Gha)	Document last selling date & time 06/02/2022 up to 05:00pm Closing date 07/02/2022 up to 02:00pm	16/02/2022 up to 05:00pm 17/02/2022 up to 02:00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branch.

Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Dr. Md. Sufi Ullah Siddik Bhuyan
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জিডি-১৯৩

Govt misled parliament Says Indian opposition over spyware use

REUTERS, New Delhi

Indian opposition parties said yesterday they will move parliamentary motions accusing the government of providing misleading information around the use of technology from Israeli spyware firm NSO Group.

The New York Times reported on Friday that India purchased NSO's Pegasus software as part of a \$2 billion weapons package in 2017.

The government has previously denied reports it used Pegasus to spy on activists, journalists and politicians.

"This government is misleading the House, the Supreme Court, the people... as opposition, it's our responsibility to raise this issue," Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, leader of the opposition Congress in parliament's lower house, told local media.

The Trinamool Congress, a second opposition party, said it would move a similar motion in the a session of India's parliament, that began yesterday.

The investigation published by The New York Times Magazine has found that Israel, which controls the export of the spyware, just as it does the export of conventional weapons, has made Pegasus a key component of its national security strategy, using it to advance its interests around the world. The yearlong investigation, by Ronen Bergman and Mark Mazzetti, also reports that the FBI bought and tested NSO software for years with plans to use it for domestic surveillance until the agency finally decided last year not to deploy the tools.

Patiya Govt College
Patiya, Chattogram
Website: www.patiyagovtcollege.gov.bd

Memo No. CEDP/PGC/2021-22/10 Date: 29/01/2022

e-Tender Notice-04/2021-2022

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following package:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of supply	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1.	653196	Procurement and Installation of Sound System for Classrooms, Multi-purpose ICT Lab, Auditorium and Conference Room of Patiya Govt College, Chattogram.	16-02-2022 01:00pm	16-02-2022 02:00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 4.00pm, 15 February, 2022.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-190

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Phone: 01309-034100 Email: bb_d.d@cmu.edu.bd

Invitation for Tender

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education.
2.	Agency	Chittagong Medical University.
3.	Procuring entity name	Dr. Bidduth Barua, Deputy Director, Chittagong Medical University.
4.	Procuring entity district	Chattogram.
5.	Invitation for	Exam Related Printing Service.
6.	Invitation Ref No.	CMU/Procure/2021-22/IFT/SR-05/01
7.	Date	31/01/2022
KEY INFORMATION		
8.	Procurement method	Open Tender Method (OTM).
FUNDING INFORMATION		
9.	Budget and source of funds	GOB.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
10.	Tender Package No.	SR-05
11.	Tender package name	Exam Related Printing Service.
12.	Eligibility of tenderer	i. Experience of supplying providing similar services as below for three years with liquid assets of Tk 15,00,000/- (fifteen lac) ii. Specific experience of at least one job within last 3 years, worth of Tk 10,00,000/- (ten lac). iii. Relevant documents according to the list mentioned in Tender Document.
13.	Brief description of service	i. Printing various types of answer Sheets for MBBS, B.Sc Nursing Professional exams. ii. Printing Mark sheets, Application forms. iii. Printing exam related envelopes. iv. Relevant Stationaries.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
14.	Tender publication date	01/02/2022
15.	Tender last selling date	13/02/2022
16.	Tender closing date and time	14/02/2022 12:00pm
17.	Tender opening date and time	14/02/2022 2:00pm
18.	Name & address of the office(s)	Address
19.	-Selling tender document	Chittagong Medical University, Level-03, BITID Building, Faujdarhat, Salimpur, Chattogram Deputy Director's (Planning & Development) Room Procurement Officer's Room.
20.	-Receiving tender document	Chittagong Medical University, Level-02, BITID Building, Faujdarhat, Salimpur, Chattogram Deputy Director's (Planning & Development) Room.
21.	-Opening tender document	Deputy Director's (Planning & Development) Room.
22.	Price of tender document (Tk)	1000 (one thousand Taka).
23.	Lot No. Identification of lot	Location Tender security amount (Tk) Completion time in weeks/ months
24.	1 SR-05/11/01	BITID Building, Salimpur, Faujdarhat, Chattogram 50,000 (fifty thousand Taka) 3 (three) weeks
25. The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders of annul the tender proceedings.		
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
26.	Name of official inviting tender	Dr. Bidduth Barua
27.	Designation of official inviting tender	Deputy Director, Chittagong Medical University.
28.	Address of official inviting tender	1st Floor, BITID Building, Faujdarhat, Salimpur, Chattogram.
29.	Contact details of official inviting tender	01309-034100, Email bb_d.d@cmu.edu.bd
30. The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.		

Dr Bidduth Barua
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